

Remarks

The foregoing amendments and following remarks are responsive to the April 26, 2006 Final Office Action. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

Status of the Claims

Claims 6, 15-16 and 24-25 are amended. Claims 29-31 are added. Claims 21-23 are cancelled. Claims 1-5, 7, 10 and 12-14 were cancelled previously. Claims 6, 8-9, 11, 15-20 and 24-31 are pending.

Support for Amendments to the Claims/Added Claims

Support for amended Claims 6, 15-16 and 24-25 is throughout the specification and particularly on page 2, lines 19-20 and page 4, lines 19-25. Support for added Claims 29-31 is found throughout the specification and particularly on page 7, lines 20-23 and in the Examples. No new matter is added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 24 is amended, and Claims 21-23 are cancelled, rendering the rejection moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 6, 8-9, 11, 15-20 and 25-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/000662 7 (Semen). Claims 6, 8-9, 11 and 15-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,235,794 (Rieber).

Semen relates to spherical granules comprising a sterically hindered phenol antioxidant and an organic processing agent. The granules may be incorporated into polyvinyl chloride, and have an average diameter of from about 1 mm to about 5 mm.

Semen is no longer pertinent, as the term "antioxidant" is no longer present in the pending claims. In addition, with regard to Claims 29-31, Semen discloses additives including metal soaps, but does not disclose that the metal soaps may be used without a sterically hindered phenol antioxidant for incorporating into an organic polymer.

Rieber relates to a hollow granulate formed on the outside of the surface of a fatty acid. Rieber discloses a spherical granulate, but does not disclose extruded and substantially spherical granules as claimed. Instead, the granulate of Rieber is hollow.

None of the presently cited references (or references of record) discloses extruded and substantially spherical granules consisting of a component selected from the group consisting of antistatic agents, antifogging agents, UV stabilizers, coupling agents, calendering aids, mold release agents, lubricants, release agents, slip agents, plasticizers, perfumes, fillers, and heat stabilizers as claimed.

For reasons set forth above, the invention defined by Claims 6, 8-9, 11, 15-20 and 25-28 is not disclosed by Semen and the invention defined by Claims 6, 8-9, 11 and 15-28 is not disclosed by Rieber. Therefore, the rejections should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

The three (3) references cited on the IDS were cited in an opposition filed against the corresponding European application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the references, sign and date the enclosed PTO-Form 1449, and return a copy to the undersigned.

Additional References

The references cited by the Examiner (but not relied upon) have been reviewed and a detailed discussion appears unnecessary.

Serial No. 09/807,165
Art Unit: 1714
Submission Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)

Petition for Extension of Time/Fees

A Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time and requisite fee are enclosed. No additional fees are believed due. The Commissioner is authorized, however, to charge any fees deemed due (or credit any balance owing) to Deposit Account No. 50-1177.

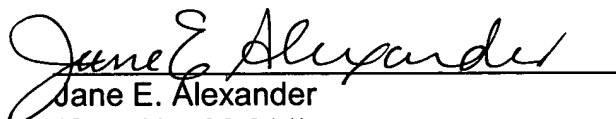
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 6, 8-9, 11, 15-20 and 24-31 are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If anything further is needed to advance the allowance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

August 7, 2006

Date


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